

or a coagulated material;  
or felt;  
or a perspiring material;] and

wherein the supporting material is provided with an embossed covering surface layer consisting of a polyethylene film, to provide a composite material of only two materials, the materials being the supporting material and the polyethylene film.

23. (Amended) A material as in any one of claims 5 or 22 wherein embossing [in] is effected simultaneously with coupling the film to the support material.

#### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above application is respectfully requested.

The Applicant expresses appreciation for the courtesy of the interview conducted in this matter.

By this Amendment, the Applicant has rectified issues which were raised in the last action. Additionally, the independent claims have been limited to a situation of the composite material or method for preparing a composite material wherein there is regenerated leather or natural leather together with polyethylene. In various other claims, this has been defined in a manner such that there are only two materials. In other claims, it has been defined where there is no film between the supporting material and the surface layer. In yet other claims, the direct coupling is defined. Other issues which were raised under 35 USC 112 have been addressed.

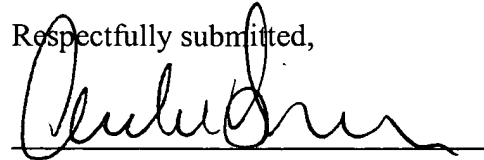
It is submitted that, in view of these changes, the rejection under 35 USC 102 and 103 is moot. The art references related to materials other than leather now have no relevance in the claims as currently limited. This Amendment raises no new issues and the subject matter in the claims is now defined in such a manner which is clearly patentable.

It is appropriate to enter these amendments and allow the claims at this stage in the prosecution.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance, and such early action is respectfully solicited. Should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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